

in this application. In the outstanding Office Actions claims 1-9 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). No new matter has been entered. Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are presented for reconsideration.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rupe (U.S. Patent No. 5, 790,198).

Claim 1 recites a program-guide-display controlling apparatus for displaying a plurality of program guides on a display unit in a matrix form by using one of the ordinate and the abscissa as a channel number access and another one as a time access. This apparatus includes a means for distinguishing a time period designated by a user from other time periods. The claimed invention thus provides a program-guide-display controlling apparatus where the user can easily determine if they have previously selected a program during a particular time period. Consequently, this invention serves as an aide to the user to prevent the user from reserving and/or selecting and/or purchasing more than one program in a single time period.

Rupe teaches a television schedule information transmission and utilization system and process. The system taught in Rupe is a national and/or international system. Consequently, provision is made in the schedule for different time zones. The time zones referred to in Rupe, however, are different than the time periods claimed in the present invention. From a review of the Office Action and the cited prior art it appears that the term "time zone" was misunderstood. Consequently, applicant has amended the claims to replace "zone" with "period". Corresponding changes have been made to the specification.

We believe that the term "time zone" in both the specification and the claims arose as part of the translation process.

The "time zone" referred to and taught in Rupe means any one of the 24 longitudinal divisions of the Earth's surface in which a standard time is kept. The primary division being bisected by the Greenwich meridian and each zone containing 15 degrees of longitude in width. A particular time zone therefore observes a clock time one hour earlier than the time zone immediately to the east. In contrast, a time period in the present claims refers to a period of time, for example 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Since Rupe utilizes the term time zone to refer to a geographic time zone and the present application refers to a time period, for example, the time period during which a user selected program may be viewed. Thus, these inventions are directed toward completely different ideas. Consequently, Rupe fails to disclose any device or method that could distinguish a time period designated by a user from other time periods displayed. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9, 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendments and remarks have clearly overcome the rejection set forth in the Office Action dated October 12, 2000. Specifically, the above amendments to the claims have been made to improve the readability of the claims. Applicant's remarks have distinguished claims 1-9 and 11-13 from the cited prior art and thus overcome the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Consequently, claims 1-9 and 11-13 are condition for allowance. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests consideration allowance of claims 1-9 and 11-13.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper toward deposit account number 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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